



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT

# PUBLIC NOTICE

NUMBER: 28391S San Francisco DryDock Company  
Maintenance Dredging

Regulatory Branch  
333 Market Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2197

DATE: March 4, 2004  
RESPONSE REQUIRED BY: April 3, 2004

PERMIT MANAGER: Margaret Chang PHONE: (415) 977-8465 E-mail: Margaret.Chang@spd02.usace.army.mil

**1. INTRODUCTION:** The San Francisco Drydock Company has applied for a ten-year Department of the Army permit to maintenance dredge Piers 3 East/West, Pier 4, Drydock #1, and Drydock #2 of their facility in the City of San Francisco, San Francisco County, California. The purpose of the proposed dredging is to remove sediment that has accumulated in the berths and under the dry docks. This accumulated sediment limits the size of ships that can be accommodated for repair. This application is being processed pursuant to the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413).

**2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** As shown in the attached drawings, "Bay Area Location," "Vicinity Map," "Project Site," "Maintenance Dredging Sheet 1 of 1," "Figure 1," "Section View, Area B, Pier 3 West," "Section View, Area C1," "Section View Area D, Pier 4 East," "Section View Area G, Drydock #2," the applicant plans to initially remove approximately 94,000 cubic yards (cy) of sediment from the 13.4-acre (approximately) terminal berth and a total of approximately 954,000 cy over the life of the permit. Existing depths in the dredge area range from -25 feet (ft) mean lower low water (MLLW) to -47 ft MLLW. The design depth for the area is -32 ft MLLW for Pier 3 (East/West), -49 ft MLLW for Drydock #1, -62.5 ft MLLW for Drydock #2, and -34 ft MLLW for Pier 4 plus an additional 2-foot overdredge allowance. The material would be removed using a clamshell, and removed by barge to

the Alcatraz Island Disposal Site (SF-11) or other acceptable site.

Prior to each dredging episode, the Dredge Material Management Office (DMMO) will evaluate the sediments to be dredged for disposal or reuse suitability. The DMMO includes representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The DMMO is tasked with approving sampling and analysis plans in conformity with testing manuals, reviewing the test results and reaching consensus regarding a suitable disposition for the dredged material.

### 3. COMPLIANCE WITH VARIOUS FEDERAL LAWS:

**National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA):** The Corps will assess the environmental impacts of the proposed action in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4371 et. seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations, 40 CFR 1500-1508, and Corps' Regulations, 33 CFR 230 and 325, Appendix B. Unless otherwise stated, the Environmental Assessment will describe only the impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) resulting from activities within the Corps' jurisdiction. The documents used in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment will be on file with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco

District, Regulatory Branch, 333 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105-2197.

**Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA):** Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) if a Corps permitted project may adversely affect any Federally listed threatened or endangered species or its designated critical habitat. Species and critical habitat currently identified by NMFS as potentially impacted by the proposed project include:

Sacramento River Winter-Run Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) is listed as endangered (January 4, 1994, 59 FR 440). The ESU includes populations of winter-run chinook salmon in the Sacramento River and its tributaries in California. The disposal site is located within the designated critical habitat for Sacramento River Winter-Run ESU chinook salmon (58 FR 33212). Adult Sacramento River Winter-Run chinook salmon migrate through San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Suisun Bay, and Honker Bay, to spawning areas in the upper Sacramento River during the late fall and early winter. Juveniles travel downstream through San Francisco Bay to the Pacific Ocean in the late fall.

Central Valley Spring-Run ESU chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) is listed as threatened (September 16, 1999, 64 FR 50394). The ESU includes all naturally spawned populations of spring-run chinook salmon in the Sacramento River and its tributaries in California. The disposal site is located within the designated critical habitat for Central Valley Spring-Run chinook salmon (65 FR 7764). Adult Central Valley Spring-Run chinook salmon migrate through San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Suisun Bay, and Honker Bay, to spawning areas in the upper reaches of the river system during the spring. Juveniles travel

downstream through San Francisco Bay to the Pacific Ocean in the late fall.

Central California Coast ESU steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) is listed as threatened (August 18, 1997, 62 FR 43937). The ESU includes all naturally spawned populations of steelhead (and their progeny) in California streams from the Russian River to Aptos Creek, and the drainages of San Francisco and San Pablo Bays eastward to the Napa River (inclusive), excluding the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Basin. The dredging project and disposal site are located within designated critical habitat for Central California Coast ESU steelhead (65 FR 7764).

Central Valley California ESU steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) is listed as threatened (March 19, 1998, 63 FR 13347). The ESU includes all naturally spawned populations of steelhead (and their progeny) in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries. Excluded are steelhead from San Francisco and San Pablo Bays and their tributaries. The disposal site is located within the designated critical habitat for Central Valley California ESU steelhead (65 FR 7764). All Central Valley steelhead are currently considered winter steelhead. Juvenile steelheads live in freshwater between one and four years and then become smolts and migrate to the sea from November through May.

There is concern that salmonids (both salmon and steelhead) migrating through the Bay might enter the disposal site. The movements of adult and juvenile salmonids through the Bay system are thought to be rapid during these migrations. Because impacts to the water column during disposal events would be short-term, localized and minor in magnitude, no potentially adverse effects to salmonids that may be near the disposal site are anticipated. If a permit is issued for this proposed project, it will contain a condition that no dredging

is allowed from December 1 through May 31 without prior consultation (pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act) with and approval from NMFS and the Corps of Engineers to protect the threatened and endangered salmonids

The Corps has concerns regarding potential impacts to Pacific herring during its annual spawning season. The proposed maintenance dredging will occur within the traditional Pacific herring spawning grounds. As a result, the Corps will condition the permit (if issued) so that dredging will not be allowed during the peak of the spawning season.

**Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act:** This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposal would impact approximately 13.4 acres and 72 acres at the disposal site of EFH utilized by various species of Pacific Groundfish, Coastal Pelagics, and Pacific Coast Salmon. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or Federally managed fisheries in California waters. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with NMFS.

**Clean Water Act of 1972 (CWA):**

**a. Water Quality:** Under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1341), an applicant for a Corps permit must first obtain a State water quality certification before a Corps permit may be issued. The applicant has provided the Corps with evidence that he has submitted a valid request for State water quality certification to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. No Corps permit will be granted until the applicant obtains the required water quality certification. The Corps may assume a waiver of water quality certification if the

State fails or refuses to act on a valid request for certification within 60 days after the receipt of a valid request, unless the District Engineer determines a shorter or longer period is reasonable for the State to act.

Those parties concerned with any water quality issues that may be associated with this project should write to the Executive Officer, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, California 94612 by the close of the comment period of this Public Notice.

**b. Alternatives:** Evaluation of this proposed activity's impact includes application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1344(b)). The applicant has submitted an Analysis of Alternatives for the project and it will be reviewed for compliance with the guidelines. An evaluation has been made by this office under the guidelines and it was determined that the proposed project is water or wetland dependent.

**Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA):** Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act requires the applicant to certify that the proposed project will comply with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program, if applicable. No Corps permit will be issued until the State has concurred with the applicant's certification. Coastal development issues should be directed to the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), 50 California Street, Suite 2600, San Francisco, California 94111.

**National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA):** Based on a review of survey data on file with various City, State and Federal agencies, no historic or archeological resources are known to occur in the project vicinity. If unrecorded resources

are discovered during construction of the project, operations will be suspended until the Corps completes consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

**Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972:** Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act authorizes the Corps to issue permits for the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposal in the ocean with the approval of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Ocean disposal issues should be directed to Brian Ross of the EPA, 75 Hawthorne Street. San Francisco, CA 94105.

**4. PUBLIC INTEREST EVALUATION:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impact, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposed activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including its cumulative effects. Among those factors are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

**5. CONSIDERATION OF COMMENTS:** The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State and local agencies and officials,

Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest in the proposed activity.

**6. SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS:** Interested parties may submit, in writing, any comments concerning this activity. Comments should include the applicant's name and the number and the date of this Public Notice, and should be forwarded so as to reach this office within the comment period specified on Page 1. Comments should be sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, Regulatory Branch, 333 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105-2197. It is the Corps' policy to forward any such comments that include objections to the applicant for resolution or rebuttal. Any person may also request, in writing, within the comment period of this Public Notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Additional details may be obtained by contacting the applicant whose name and address are indicated in the first paragraph of this Public Notice or by contacting Ms. Margaret Chang of our office at telephone 415-977-8465 or E-mail: Margaret.Chang@spd02.usace.army.mil. Details on any changes of a minor nature which are made in the final permit action will be provided upon request.